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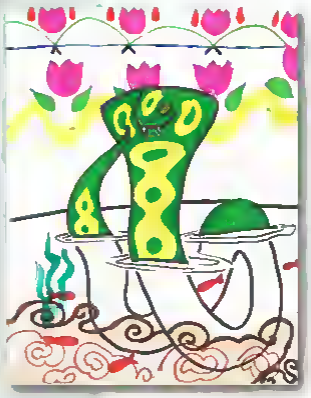
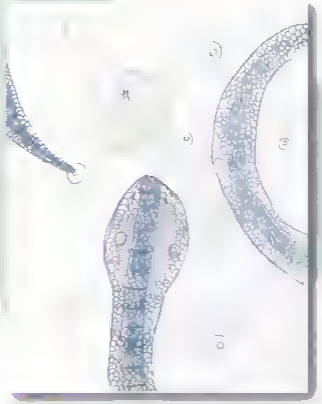
ZODIAC SIGN ART CONTEST

1ST PLACE WINNER: NEKO



2ND PLACE WINNER: SILLY



3RD PLACE WINNER: CIRCUS

TO OUR FELLOW READERS, THIS CONCERNS YOU ALL!

MAYBE YOU ALREADY KNOW ABOUT THIS, BUT FOR ANYONE WHO DOESN'T:
PLEASE DON'T UPLOAD OUR PROJECTS ON ANY ONLINE MANGA AGGREGATION WEBSITE!!
WE'LL STILL RELEASE ON BATOTO.NET, BUT IF A CERTAIN BOT WHICH MANGAFOX/HERE USES TO RIP THE PAGES OFF FROM BATOTO, BECAUSE OF THIS WE WATERMARK IG BEFORE UPLOADING ON BATOTO (MAYBE TO A LATER TIME WE'LL EXCHANGE THE FILES WITH THE NON-WATERMARKED VERSION).
IT'S REALLY SAD THAT WE HAVE TO DO THIS, BUT ALL THE MANGA AGGREGATION WEBSITES (ESPECIALLY MANGAFOX AND MANGAHERE) ***DON'T REMOVE LICENSED MANGA*** AND MAKE A LOT OF MONEY FROM THE FREE WORK THAT WE SCANLATORS PROVIDE.
NOW SOME OF US MIGHT THINK, "BUT SERVERS COST A LOT OF MONEY, SO IT'S OKAY THAT THEY EARN SOME MONEY WITH ADS." IF IT WERE LIKE THAT AND IF THEY WOULD STOP UPLOADING LICENSED PROJECTS, IT WOULDN'T BE SUCH A SERIOUS PROBLEM. IN FACT, THERE IS A COMPANY, NAMELY NOEZ, BEHIND MANGAFOX AND MANGAHERE (AND MANY OTHER WEBSITES) WHO EARN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS EACH MONTH. WITH MANGAFOX ALONE, THEY GET OVER 5000 DOLLARS ***EACH DAY!*** IF YOU MULTIPLY IT BY 30, YOU GET ***AROUND 150,000 DOLLARS EACH MONTH!*** ACTUALLY, THOSE ARE ONLY THE NUMBERS WE KNOW ABOUT. AFTER SOME MORE RESEARCH, YOU CAN EVEN FIND OUT THAT THEIR WEBSITE MANGAFOX.COM IS WORTH OVER 1.6 MILLION USD!
AS YOU CAN SEE, THEY EARN A LOT OF CASH BASED ON THE HARD WORK OF ARTISTS, PUBLISHERS, AND EVEN THE FREE WORK OF SCANLATORS. TO MAKE IT EVEN WORSE, NOEZ OWNS ***MANY OTHER WEBSITES (E.G. ANIME HERE, OTAKU ZONE, WALLPAPER FOX, WALLPAPER HERE, ANIMEONLINE.NET, OTAKU SHOPS, AND OTHER GAMING WEBSITES)*** WHICH THEY EARN EVEN MORE MONEY FROM. IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS ISSUE, YOU COULD READ AN EXTREMELY INFORMATIVE *THREAD ON THE BATOTO FORUMS* (YOU CAN FIND IT ON OUR WEBSITE AS WELL IN OUR FAQ).
HOWEVER, SCANLATORS ALONE CAN'T IMPROVE THIS SITUATION, BUT YOU CAN HELP US!

HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS THAT EVERYONE CAN TRY DOING:
1. *DON'T VISIT* MANGA AGGREGATION WEBSITES LIKE MANGAFOX. YOU CAN GET THE NEWEST RELEASES ON THE *SCANLATOR WEBSITES* (BY DOWNLOADING...MANY GROUPS EVEN HAVE THEIR OWN ONLINE READERS) OR READ IT ON *BATOTO.NET* (AN ONLINE MANGA READER, BUT UNLIKE MANGAFOX THEY CARE ABOUT SCANLATOR'S POLICIES AND REMOVE ANYTHING THE SCANLATORS WOULD LIKE TO WITHDRAW).
2. IF YOU ACTUALLY WANT TO HELP YOUR FAVORITE MANGAKAS, YOU SHOULD *BUY A COPY* OF THEIR WORK, IF IT GETS LICENSED IN YOUR COUNTRY. EVEN CONSIDER PURCHASING IT IN IT'S NATIVE LANGUAGE. YOU CAN ALSO WRITE TO YOUR LOCAL PUBLISHER AND ASK IF THEY CAN LICENSE AND PUBLISH IT.
3. IF A MANGA GETS *LICENCED*, PLEASE HELP *STOP THE DISTRIBUTION OF SCANLATED CHAPTERS/VOLUMES.*
4. *SPREAD THE WORD ON WHAT MANGAFOX REALLY IS* AND HOW THEY EARN THEIR MONEY. WE KNOW THAT SUCH WEBSITES ARE HIGHLY TEMPTING SINCE THEY ARE A MUCH MORE CONVENIENT WAY OF ACCESSING MANGA, BUT IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE READING MANGA IN A LANGUAGE YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH, YOU BETTER STOP USING SUCH WEBSITES. A LITTLE REMINDER OF SOPA, PIPA AND ACTA; UP TILL NOW, SCANLATIONS WERE IN A GRAY ZONE DUE TO SCANLATORS NOT EARNING ANYTHING AND REMOVING LICENSED MATERIAL. IF MANGAFOX STILL CONTINUES LIKE THIS, SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE SCANLATION TEAMS WILL BE REGARDED IN THE BLACK ZONE. TEAMS WOULD BE FORCED TO SHUT DOWN AND THE AVAILABLE AMOUNT OF MANGA ONLINE WILL SLOWLY DECREASE.

HOWEVER, WITH THAT IN MIND, THERE'S A GREAT WEBSITE THAT INFORMS YOU AS SOON AS A SCANLATOR RELEASES SOMETHING NEW)! IT ALSO PROVIDES LINKS WHICH LEAD YOU DIRECTLY TO THE SCANLATORS WEBSITE! THE WEBSITE IS....*EPIC DRUM ROLL* WWW.MANGAUPDATES.COM!
ON MU YOU CAN ALSO SEARCH UP MANGA THAT AREN'T YET SCANLATED AND CAN LOOK UP IF A CERTAIN MANGA IS LICENSED OR NOT.

IF YOU DO THE ABOVE (OR AT LEAST A BIT OF IT), THE SITUATION WILL DEFINITELY IMPROVE! WE ENCOURAGE AND INVITE EVERYONE TO TAKE PART IN THIS ACT. PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD FOR YOUR SAKE AS WELL AS EVERYONE ELSE'S.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

PLEASE ENJOY THIS CHAPTER.

THE Save Scanlation TEAM

The sound of falling feathers in the day

Episode02 落日羽音

——Some where I Belong?

MASTER, PREPARATIONS FOR THE RITUAL ARE COMPLETE.
HAH. THEN, XI LI OU, XIAO LEI, COME AND HELP.
.....

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS, FATHER...
HAH. DON'T BE UPSET. EVEN I HAD DIFFICULTY MASTERING "FANTASY DAY."
squeeze
ANYWAY, YOUR BIRTHDAY'S COMING UP. I'LL GET YOU... THE GIFT... YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED...
FATHER, DON'T.

MASTER? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
MM ...
EVEN THOUGH MASTER HAS TO DEPEND ON "FANTASY DAY", MASTER CAN AT LEAST MOVE ABOUT FREELY DURING THE DAYTIME.
STILL, IT'S VERY ENERGY-CONSUMING TO LIVE IN THE DAY AS IF IT WERE NIGHT
IT'S INCONVENIENT, BUT, IN ORDER NOT TO EXPOSE YOUR IDENTITY, YOU CAN'T JUST FREELY FEED.

FATHER'S GIFT IS FINE. IT CAN'T BE WASTED.
THANK YOU FOR TAKING ME TO THE INFIRMARY EARLIER. I'M REALLY SORRY FOR THE HASSLE.
I'M SORRY!
I SHOULDN'T BLATHER ON WHEN YOU'RE STILL NOT FEELING WELL...
CHONG YIN.
So it's you.
AH, YOU'RE OKAY NOW.
GREAT.

I'M REALLY GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU DID EARLIER! MASTER IS VERY SICKLY SO PLEASE, PLEASE, ALWAYS LOOK OUT FOR HER, I BEG YOU!
Xi... Xi Li Ou?!
SURE, NO PROB. BUT... MASTER?

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL!
Haha
Hahaha

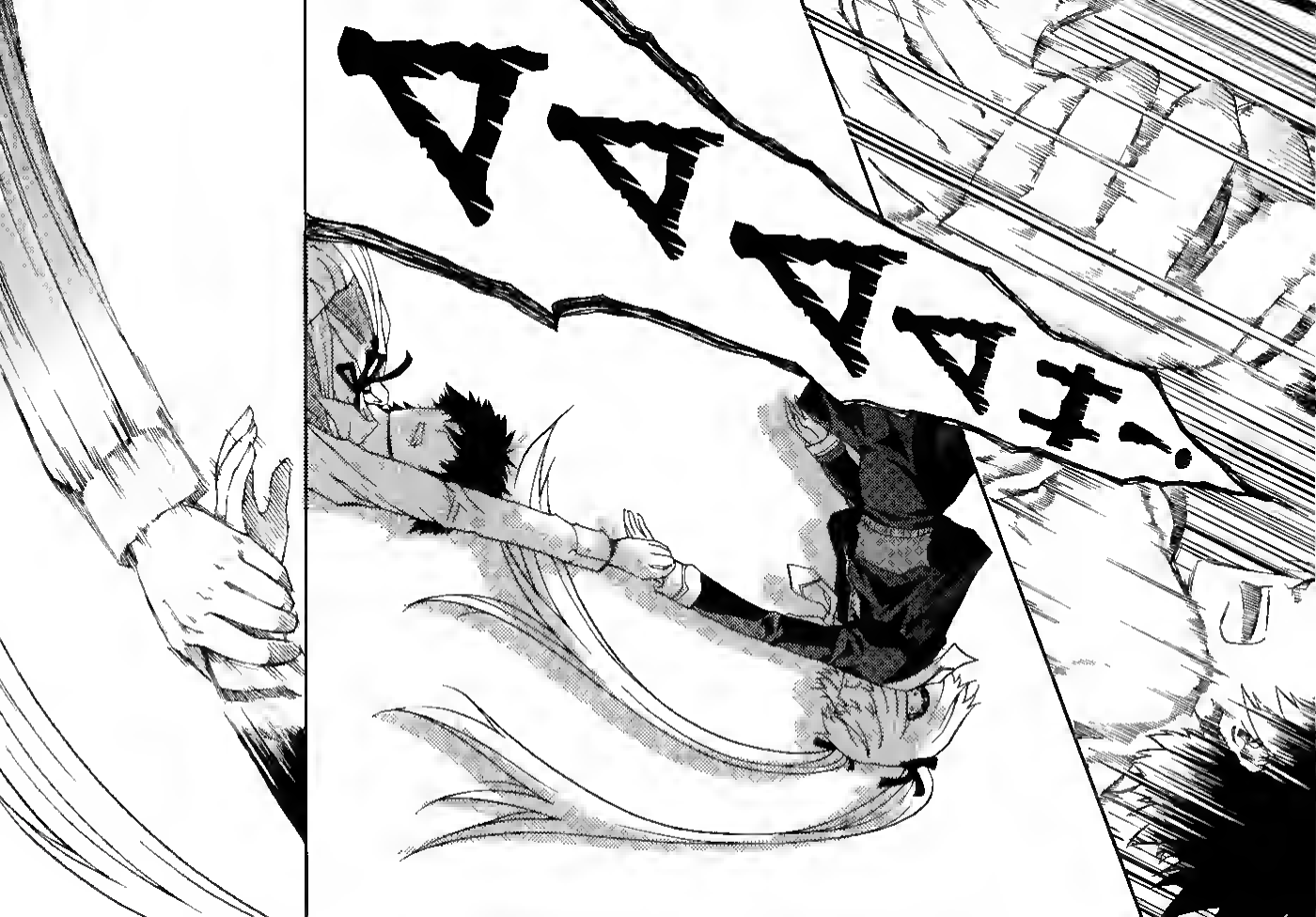
SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER.. I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS YOUR BROTHER.
NO, NO! HE WAS WAY OUT OF LINE THERE! PHRASING IT LIKE THAT... IT WAS JUST BEGGING TO BE MIS-UNDERSTOOD.
YOUR BROTHER WANTS YOU TO MAKE A LOT OF FRIENDS IN SCHOOL...
SO I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO MY BEST FRIEND.
THANK YOU.
FEI HU!
YOUR BEST FRIEND...
MUST BE A VERY NICE PERSON.

HAVE YOU WAITED LONG? THERE WAS A LITTLE MIX-UP.
IN THE END, YOU DIDN'T SKIP CLASS THE WHOLE DAY TO HELP ME "INVESTIGATE", DID YOU...
IS THIS REALLY OKAY...
WHAT WAS THE BLONDE GUY'S PROBLEM?!
IT WAS LIKE HE WANTED TO HOOK YOU UP WITH THAT GIRL.
TELL ME YOU DIDN'T SEE THAT!
THAT WAS NOTHING, REALLY NOTHING. LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS LATER, 'COZ...
WELL, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...

I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO SOMEONE ...
!
WHY ARE YOU HANGING AROUND HIM?!
VAMPIRE!

WHAT? WHAT VAMPIRE? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
CHONG YIN, I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO THIS GIRL.
FEI HU, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
LET'S GO,
HUH? HEY, WAIT!
I NEED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.
HEY! WAIT! I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHY'D YOU SAY THAT?
DON'T TOUCH ME!
DIRTY GIT!

WATCH OUT!


ダダダダ…

CHONG YIN!!

I'M THE REASON FATHER DID...
HE USED HIS OWN DEMONIC POWER TO ACTIVATE THE FORBIDDEN SPELL "FANTASY DAY" SO THAT I CAN WALK IN THE DAYLIGHT...
IF MY SECRET IS DISCOVERED, THE SPELL WILL LOSE ITS POWER AND I WILL HAVE TO LEAVE...
BUT ...

FATHER, PLEASE FORGIVE ME. I
CAN'T JUST TURN A BLIND EYE TO THIS!
!

I GOTTA HELP!
twish
whoosh
YOU'RE SAFE NOW, CHONG YIN.

OKAY, YOU'RE SAFE NOW!
WHO ... WHO ARE YOU?!
I AM NOT YOUR CLASSMATE, OR SEATED NEXT TO YOU IN CLASS, OR EVEN YOUR FRIEND,
I AM... NOT EVEN HUMAN.
I AM BLOODLINE.
VAMPIRE

ALL YOUR MEMORIES OF ME ARE FALSE IMPLANTED BY THE EYE OF BLOODLINE.
"All of ye within mine sight, will do mine bidding."
"ALL OF YE WITHIN MINE SIGHT, WILL DO MINE BIDDING." FROM NOW ON, I AM YOUR CLASSMATE, TREAT ME AS YOU WOULD AN OLD FRIEND
THIS ONE SPELL GIVES ME EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING MY HEART DESIRES...
FROM TODAY ONWARDS, I WILL REPLACE YOU IN SCHOOL. GO HOME AND REST
YES ...
REALLY?
FROM NOW ON I AM YOUR NEIGHBOUR IN CLASS!
YES ...

CHONG YIN!
I'LL GO.
I CAN NO LONGER BE A STUDENT HERE..
THAT'S FAR ENOUGH!
You... you really are a monster!
MY FANTASY HAS ENDED.
EXPOSED ON THE VERY FIRST DAY!..

.....
BUT EARLIER IN THE CLASSROOM...
LIKE MORNING SUN SHINING IN THE CLASSROOM;
LIKE THE NOISE EVERYONE MAKES DURING RECESS. LIKE TALKING TO CHONG YIN RIGHT NOW.
HER WORDS THIS MORNING...
LIKE BEING ABLE TO MAKE LOTS OF FRIENDS IN SCHOOL.
DIDN'T SEEM LIKE LIES.

DON'T FALL FOR HER WILES! IT'S BEEN SAID THAT MONSTERS ARE EXPERTS AT CONTROLLING AND ENCHANTING PEOPLE!
ALSO, THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS OF MONSTER ATTACKS CAUSED BY THE "SCHOOL CAMPUS VAMPIRE"
FEI HU, I DON'T THINK SHE MEANS US ANY HARM. SHE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN EXPOSED NOR WOULD SHE HAVE TO LEAVE SCHOOL IF SHE DIDN'T SAVE ME.
"SCHOOL CAMPUS VAMPIRE"?

PLEASE! DON'T ASSUME IT'S ME. THIS IS MY FIRST DAY IN THIS SCHOOL AND I ONLY DRINK MY SERVANT'S BLOOD.
ARE YOU SAYING THAT I'M A LIAR?
YOU TWO ... KNOCK IT OFF.

IT'S LIKELY THAT NEITHER OF YOU ARE LYING - IN THIS SCHOOL, THERE IS A VAMPIRE ATTACKING STUDENTS.
EVEN THOUGH LILO AI MAY BE A VAMPIRE, SHE'S NOT THE CULPRIT.
WHEN ALL THESE SEEMINGLY CONTRADICTORY FACTORS ARE PUT TOGETHER, THE ONLY EXPLANATION IS
WHAT IF THERE'S A SECOND VAMPIRE IN THE SCHOOL?
LILO AI, IF YOU WANT TO CLEAR YOUR NAME, WILL YOU COME ALONG TO HELP CAPTURE THE CULPRIT WITH US?

-BIT BY BIT, OVER TIME, IT WILL ACCUMULATE INTO A MOUNTAIN.

I STARTED PAYING ATTENTION TO MANHUA COURSES THAT WERE AVAILABLE, AND TO UPDATES ON ORIGINAL MANHUA CREATIONS BY OTHER FELLOW COUNTRYMEN. I ALSO BEGAN TO PRACTISE COPYING ARTWORK WITHOUT USING TRACING PAPER; I PRACTISED DILIGENTLY ON ALMOST ALL THE MANHUA I HAD BOUGHT FOR MYSELF. BUT I FELT THAT THEIR DRAWING STYLES WERE TOO UNIQUE AND NOT MAINSTREAM ENOUGH FOR WHAT I WANTED. I WANTED A DRAWING STYLE THAT EVERYONE WOULD LIKE; A STYLE THAT COULD NOT BE FOUND IN CURRENT CLASSIC MANHUA.

DURING THIS TIME, I WAS BROWSING THROUGH A GAME MAGAZINE AND FOUND LOTS OF BEAUTIFUL ILLUSTRATIONS IN IT! ESPECIALLY ON THE INSIDE OF THE BACK COVER - THERE WERE A BUNCH OF CHARACTER SNAPSHOTS. I DISCOVERED THAT THOSE ILLUSTRATIONS WERE DONE BY A WELL-KNOWN ARTIST, SATOSHI URUSHIHARA. THOSE CHARACTER SNAPSHOTS WERE FROM THE GAME, "FIRE EMBLEM: GENEALOGY OF THE HOLY WAR" AND WERE PUBLISHED IN THE VERY FIRST ISSUE OF "PC & CONSOLE GAMING" MAGAZINE. THIS STYLE OF DRAWING, WHILE STILL CATEGORICALLY MANHUA ART WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WAS BEING FOUND IN MAINSTREAM MANHUA, HAD A MASSIVE IMPACT ON ME. "WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF THIS STYLE OF DRAWING COULD BE USED IN MANHUA?!" SO, EVEN THOUGH I COULD NEVER DREAM OF OWNING A NEXT-GENERATION GAMING DEVICE (LIKE PS OR SS*), I STARTED BUYING GAMING MAGAZINES TO STUDY NEW ILLUSTRATION STYLES. LATER ON, SOME OF THE GAMING MAGAZINES EVEN HIGHLIGHTED COMIC DRAWING GUIDES. WHEN I RAN OUT OF MONEY TO BUY MORE GAMING MAGAZINES, I BORROWED THEM FROM FRIENDS AND PHOTOCOPIED THE DRAWING GUIDE SECTIONS. THANKS TO MY RESEARCH, EVEN THOUGH I NEVER DID GET TO PLAY ANY OF THOSE GAMES, I KNEW THEM ALL VERY WELL ...

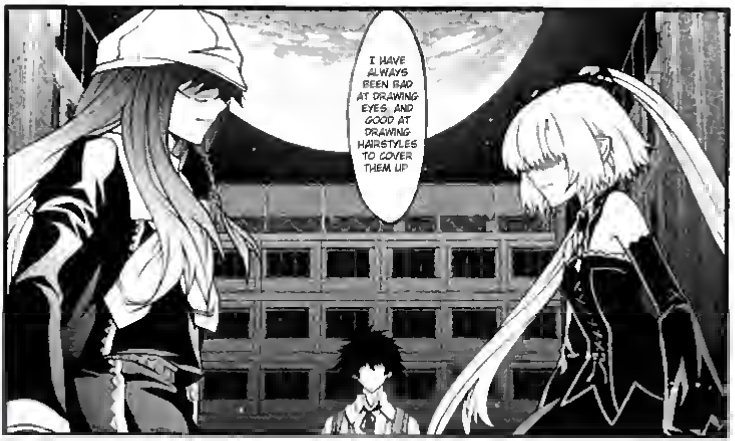
A THICK, GREEN COVERED, LARGE-PRINT COMIC DRAWING GUIDE BOOK CALLED "NEW MANHUA LECTURES*" APPEARED OUT ON THE MARKET A LITTLE LATER. IT COST ME AROUND $40 WHICH WAS NEARLY EVERY PENNY THAT I HAD SAVED UP. THE GUIDE WAS A TYPICAL ONE FOR A BASIC COURSE, BUT SUCH BOOKS WERE VERY RARE BACK THEN AND I TREASURED IT VERY MUCH. IT TALKED ABOUT DIP PENS, BLADES AND FINE POINT BRUSHES FOR COLOUR. NATURALLY, I DIDN'T HAVE THE VARIOUS AND INEVITABLY EXPENSIVE TOOLS MENTIONED IN THE BOOK, BUT I COMMITTED TO MEMORY THE WAY THESE TOOLS WERE USED, EVEN THOUGH THE ART SUPPLY STORES WOULD NEVER HAVE SOLD MANHUA DRAWING MATERIALS LIKE THESE. I WAS WORRIED THAT I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BECOME A MANHUA ARTIST IF I COULDN'T MANAGE TO LEARN MANUAL WEBBING AND THE FREEHAND APPLICATION OF WATERCOLOURS, TWO SKILLS THAT I FOUND VERY DIFFICULT AND TROUBLESOME.

*TN: 'PS' STANDS FOR 'PLAYSTATION' AND 'SS' STANDS FOR 'SEGA STAURN'.

AS WELL, I FOUND DIP PENS IN MY MOTHER'S TOOLBOX FROM WHEN SHE USED TO WORK AS A PHOTOGRAPHER. EVEN THOUGH THEY WEREN'T SPECIALIZED G-PENS FOR MANHUA DRAWING AND WERE RANDOM PEN TIP SIZES, THEY WERE LIKE PRIZED HOLY RELICS TO ME BACK THEN. BEFORE THE INVENTION OF THE DIGITAL CAMERA, IT WAS POSSIBLE TO MAKE ALTERATIONS BY HAND DIRECTLY ON THE FILM NEGATIVE, SO MUM HAD LOTS OF DRAWING TOOLS. SHE HAD SUPER-FINE-POINT BRUSHES LIKE THOSE MENTIONED IN THE MANUAL AND WHITE POSTER PAINT USED FOR CORRECTING MISTAKES ON AN IMAGE. MUM AND DAD EVEN HELPED ME PURCHASE DOT PAPER FROM "YOUTH MANHUA". IT TOOK SUCH A LONG TIME FOR IT TO BE DELIVERED THAT I HAD FORGOTTEN HAVING ORDERED IT WHEN IT EVENTUALLY ARRIVED.

I FIRST TRIED DRAWING THE STYLES I LEARNED FROM THE GAMING MAGAZINES USING THE DIP PENS TO DRAW SINGLE FRAME PORTRAITS, COMPLETE WITH BACKGROUND SCENERY. THE FIRST PIECE WAS AN IMAGE OF A CHARISMATIC KNIGHT IN ARMOUR, ON BENDED KNEE HOLDING AN AXE, HAIR ARTFULLY CONCEALING HIS EYES. MY HABITS DON'T SEEM TO HAVE CHANGED MUCH (HAHA!).

INITIALLY, I WAS JUST DRAWING SINGLE PORTRAITS, AND SENT A FEW PIECES I WAS SATISFIED WITH TO "YOUTH MANGA". I WAS CONFIDENT THAT MINE WERE COMPARABLE TO THE ONES PUBLISHED IN THE MAGAZINE'S SINGLE FRAME PORTRAIT CHALLENGE COLUMN. OF COURSE, I WASN'T SATISFIED WITH JUST DRAWING SINGLE FRAMES BUT I STILL HAD TO COPE WITH ATTENDING SCHOOL AND THE COPIOUS AMOUNTS OF HOMEWORK WHICH MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR ME TO HAVE LARGE ENOUGH CHUNKS OF TIME TO DRAW SHORT STORIES. THE WINTER HOLIDAYS WERE TOO SHORT, SO I ALWAYS HOPED TO USE THE LONGER SUMMER HOLIDAYS TO DO BIGGER PROJECTS. I WAS ALWAYS CONCEPTUALISING CHARACTER DESIGNS AND STORYLINES, OFTEN IMAGINING THE TYPES OF STORIES I COULD COME UP WITH WHEN I LOOKED AT DIFFERENT CHARACTER SNAPSHOTS; "AH, I WANT TO DRAW A STORY LIKE THIS!". AND THEN, BEING THE GOOD KID I WAS, I'D GO AND DO MY HOMEWORK (HAHA!).



THESE WORDS ARE IN TRIBUTE TO WHAT I HAVE JUSTLY LOST, IN MY PURSUIT OF MANHUA